

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO PFOR CSCE
SUBJ: IS DRAFT REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE: APRIL 22
POLADS DISCUSSION OF TARGET DATE ISSUE

REF: A. USNATO 2306, B. STATE 88509, C. USNATO 2272, D. STATE
87354, E. USNATO 2151

SUMMARY: AT APRIL 22 MEETING, POLADS WERE UNABLE TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON TARGET DATE ISSUE. ADDITIONAL COMPROMISE FORMULAS
WERE SUGGESTED. NUMEROUS MINOR CHANGES WERE ALSO PROPOSED IN THE
TEXT, WHICH WE WILL REPORT BY SEPTTEL. AS A RESULT, FINAL COUNCIL
APPROVAL OF THE REPORT IS LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED FROM APRIL 27 TO
MAY 4 TO ALLOW TIME FOR PRIOR AGREEMENT IN POLADS. ACTION REQUESTED:
GUIDANCE ON COMPROMISE FORMULAS ON TARGET DATE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT APRIL 22 MEETING, POLADS CONSIDERED THREE FORMULATIONS
(REFTELS) ON TARGET DATE ISSUE AS LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 76 OF C-M(77)
29: (A) "IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER
OR NOT TO SUPPORT A TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MAIN MEETING."
(B)"FOR EXAMPLE, THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS,
SUPPORT A TARGET DATE, EG CHRISTMAS, WITH TERMINATION TO BE
AGREED BY CONSENSUS." (C) "THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO
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WARRANTS, SUPPORT A TARGET DATE. THE CLOSING DATE IS TO BE AGREED BY
CONSENSUS."

2. DANISH AND CANADIAN REPS CONTINUED TO PREFER FORMULA (A)
FRG REP ALSO SUPPORTED (A). OTHER REPS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT (B)
OR (C). NETHERLANDS REP, HOWEVER, NOTED DRAWBACK IN REFERENCE TO
"CHRISTMAS" IN (B) SINCE A POLISH EMBASSY OFFICER HAD RECENTLY
COMMENTED TO THE DUTCH THAT THE MAIN MEETING MIGHT BEGIN AS LATE
AS NOVEMBER 15. ALTHOUGH THE HAGUE DID NOT ATTACH MUCH SIGNIFICANCE
TO THIS SINGLE COMMENT, IT POINTED UP A POSSIBLE DANGER OF AGRE-

EING TO A SPECIFIC TARGET DATE.

3. AS A COMPROMISE, DANISH REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES COULD ACCEPT (C) WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE REFERRING TO PARA 3 OF THE SECTION ON "FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE" IN THE FINAL ACT: "IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE RECALLED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WILL DECIDE INTERALIA ON THE DURATION OF THE FINAL MEETING". NETHERLANDS REP POINTED OUT THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING COULD DECIDE ON DURATION OF INDETERMINATE LENGHT. SEVERAL REPS QUESTIONED NEED FOR REFERENCE DANES DESIRED, AND BELIEVED THAT IF NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE COMPROMISE ENTIRE SENTENCE IN FINAL ACT SHOULD BE QUOTED.

4. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, FURTHER ADDITIONAL FORMULAS WERE SUGGESTED, AS POSSIBLE COMPROMISES, WHICH WE LIST BELOW IN ORDER OF SUPPORT EXPRESSED ON A PERSONAL BASIS DURING POLADS DISCUSSION: (I) INSERT AS A NEW ADDITIONAL FIRST SENTENCE TO PARA 76: "THE FINAL ACT PROVIDES THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WILL DECIDE ON THE DATE, DURATION, AGENDA AND OTHER MODIALITIES OF THE MAIN MEETING." REPLACE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 76 BY: "IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS, WISH TO ESTABLISH AN OPTIMUM DURATION OF APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS. THE CLOSING DATE IS TO BE SET BY CONSENSUS." (II) COMBINE FORMULAS (A) AND (C) IN PARA 1 ABOVE TO READ: "IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT A TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MAIN MEETING. THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SITUATION SO WARRANTS, SUPPORT A TARGET DATE. THE CLOSING DATE IS TO BE AGREED BY CONSENSUS." (III) IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED ON A FORMULATION, DELTED THE FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 76, WHICH WOULD THEN END WITH THE WORDS "SOVIET BEHAVIOR". FRG REP BELIEVED THIS SOLUTION MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IN LIGHT OF THE GENERAL COMMENTARY ON DATE AND DURATION IN PARAS 74-76.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON FORMULAS IN PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE. POLADS WILL RETURN TO THIS ISSUE APRIL 25, BUT WE COULD REQUEST A BRIEF MEETING APRIL 26 IF WE RECEIVE GUIDANCE BY THAT TIME. END ACTION REQUEST.

6. IN THE SEARCH FOR A COMPROMISE FORMULA, US REP READ OUT THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION AGREED TO BY THE NINE, WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO DRAFTING OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE (I) IN PARA 4 ABOVE: "THE NINE WILL AIM TO CONCLUDE THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL BEGIN JUNE 15, BEFORE THE END OF JULY. THE MAIN MEETING SHOULD START IN LATE SEPT OR EARLY OCT. THE NINE WILL WISH TO AVOID BECOMING COMMITTED EITHER TO AN ENTIRELY OPEN-ENDED MEETING OR TO ONE OF FIXED DURATION. THE SHOULD ARGUE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AT THE OUTSET OF AN OPTIMUM DURATION OF APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS, I E NOT NECESSARILY A MAXIMUM PERIOD BUT ONE THAT COULD BE AGREED TO BE REASONABLE AND THAT COULD IF NECESSARY BE PROLONGED."

7. WE WILL REPORT OTHER SUGGESTED CHANGES IN THE REPORT BY SEPTTEL.
FINAL COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE REPORT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE
POSSIBLE APRIL 27, AND COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF IT IS LIKELY TO BE
POSTPONED TO MAY 4 TO ALLOW TIME TO WORK OUT REMAINING PROBLEMS IN
POLADS.PEREZ

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